

**City of Bloomington
Telecommunications Council
Business Meeting – September 7th, 2010**

**Common Council Chambers
City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.**

I. Members Present: Carl Zager, Eric Ost, Suzann Owen, Jesse Strycker, Duane Busick

II. Approval of Minutes:

- A motion was made by Suzann Owen to accept the minutes, and seconded by Jesse Strycker. Suzann Owen had one correction on the second page about two-thirds of the way down the page. The statement reads, after Vicki's presentation, Suzann asked a question "Will the cracks be absorbed by another committee." She would like it to read "there may be items left that may fall thru the cracks, if not assigned to another committee." Questions was called, all approved the motion.

III. Public Comment and Reports – None

IV. Reports and Announcements

1. Telecommunication Council Members:

- Suzann – The FCC and Congress still have a lot of focus on broadband and network neutrality. There is nothing going on with video.

2. CATS – Michael White

- Monthly programming
- Candidates on Demand will be opened up to all candidates running in the election. This will include over 100 people. Each will get time in the studio for interviews.
- Suzann – I presume you will be covering LOTUS.
- Michael – Yes, it will be played back over the next several months.
- Suzann – Did CATS cover the Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee?
- Michael – I don't know.
- Jesse – What happens to the original tapes after they have been dubbed or transferred?
- Michael – They are stored.

3. ITS Dept. – Rick Dietz

- BDU Advisory Meeting on October 7th This is an expert panel that reviews the city's infer-structure in terms of our fiber-optics and conduit, and other high tech topics.
- The Combine Conference: A technology Conference called Combine will be in Bloomington September 10-12th. You can find more information about the conference at www.thecombine.org.
- Suzann – Is there a registration and cost?
- Rick – Yes, I would have to look at the website for the cost. (\$249.99)
- Suzann – Do you have any more information to share about the city administrations action on sun-setting this council?
- Rick – No time line has been made as when anything will take place.
- Suzann – What will the procedure be?
- Rick – The decision will have to go thru the city council for approval.
- Suzann - What else might be included in this proposal?
- Rick – I have not been involved in those discussions.
- Suzann – Is the BDU included?
- Rick - Not currently.

4. WTIU – Phil Meyer –

- Quarterly report was emailed for TIU World Ch. 17
- We received notification that Comcast was moving our HD channel, and they gave the wrong channel number to subscribers. So, there had to be a second mailing. Our channel is now 1022.
- Several members didn't realize that channels went up that high. Phil stated it was part of their infer-structure upgrade.
- Program Highlights:
 - ❖ In September, we will be starting a series on the Supreme Court with the other Indiana PBS Stations. This is part of a 3 hour block that is statewide. It will be schedule at the discretion of each station.
- Duane – Where does the televising of the general assembly stand?

- Phil – It died along with \$4 million in capital appropriations that the state budget agency did not distribute. This would have allowed all eight stations to connect.
- Suzann – At the present time we are able to receive WTU HD without subscribing to the high definition service from Comcast. After their enhancement, will this require the AB switch, if you don't use a box, and only use an adapter? What are you doing to prepare people for this?
- Phil – Honestly, Comcast should be preparing them for that. They have made the boxes available free initially, but can be rented. We what was mandated for us to do.
- Suzann – Are you telephone people ready for this?
- Phil – Yes!
- Carl – Comcast subscribers that currently subscribe to the digital tier do not have to do anything?
- Phil – Correct, this will only affect people who subscribe to the BASIC or CLASSIC package.
- Duane – When there is sound sync issues on the TIU digital channel, are we still suppose to be calling in?
- Phil – Yes, 855-5900. Control 9 is no more. Our news breaks are done thru equipment in the TV/News room. The breaks are being packaged, and then digitized.
- Carl- Have you received any complaints about poor quality or pixilation?
- Phil – Yes, we are trying to troubleshoot that with customers as it happens.
- Jesse – I noticed back when we had the two days of severe weather that on the main channel the alerts were scrolled, and also had picture and sound, but has you went to the other channels (.1, .2 etc) they had less, the alert was only scrolled across the bottom. Why?
- Phil – To get each channel to do each part of the weather alert, it takes 4 sets of equipment. We used our mandated money to have the information on the main channel. The other channel will be added in time.
- Jesse – The repetition of programs, some get repeated a lot and others only get shown once, how is this determined?
- Phil – It depends on the series, and the producer's rights that have been delegated to PBS. World and Create are in 6 blocks that repeat. The HD Channel is a hand-made schedule. So not every show will repeat has many times.

V. Information from or about Video Service Provider

VI. Old Business

1. Report to City Council – No Report

2. EAS Announcements

Report was sent out to council members.

Carl – Thanked Rick Dietz for initiating the conversation with Jeff Shimmer, and Jim Cumafor. At the last meeting, we asked Rick to look into the status of the local override system. Issues were brought up by a local subscriber that the overrides were locking up her system. Central dispatch reported that they no longer have a way to interrupt the cable system to get warnings out. They can only rely on broadcasters to get information out over the air waves. Information was shared with the Emergency Management Advisory Committee (an official committee mandated by the stat) to adopt the program called "HAZ Collect". This is a service provided by the NWS. Central dispatch would notify the NWS of a local emergency. NWS would use their ability to break into the Comcast system and transmit to the local subscribers. The process still doesn't answer the question that our local subscriber had last month.

Suzann – Is there any statutory requirement that anyone do these alerts?

Carl – The Federal Communication Commission requires national and state alerts of any nature. Other items are not mandated at all.

Suzann – Regardless of where it originates there is nothing behind it that says the video service provider has to follow thru?

Carl – If it is from the NWS, yes they do.

Suzann – All of this would be executed automatically. HAZ Collect will do everything a national alert does with one exception, it can individualize the location. This will cover everybody.

3. PEG Channels-

Carl – Do we have any indication that there has been movement toward PEG coverage on the other VSP?

Rick & Michael – NO!

4. Telecommunications Council Charter –

- We did have a work session on 8/19 to discuss provisions of a potential charter. A preliminary draft was distributed. Eric has added a couple of points as item #4, which was emailed. Carl read the points under #4. He also highlighted point's #1-3.
- Suzann – I encourage a timely delivery of whatever is written up. We need to move forward with this draft and get it submitted to the mayor.
- Eric – We need to accept the work session points as our position, and suggest that we re-send them to all parties.
- A motion was made by Eric Ost that the council accept the four points read by Carl. We then send this to the interested parties as the position for the charter. Duane Busick seconded.

- Discussion/ Questions
 - ❖ Suzann – In the cover letter, I think it would be reasonable to ask for a specific response from the mayor or city council. We really need to know whether or not we will continue to function.
 - ❖ Duane – I don't think that is appropriate. What this body does is provide information. We are not in a position to demand information back.
 - ❖ Eric – I'm in agreement with both of you.
 - ❖ Carl – I agree as well, but in response to Suzann. We did get a response. Unfortunately the administration has a plan that is different from ours. Our response to that response is what we have in our motion.
 - ❖ Eric – We need to continue the dialogue.
 - ❖ Call for the Question made by Duane Busick, all were in favor of the motion.

VII. New Business

- **Lennon Beasley – Local Community Producer**

Lennon has produced 1045 programs.
His new shows are: Drums Instrumental Today, Piano Instrumental Today, and Guitar Room.
All were invited to his 1000th show party on September 24 at noon, in CATS meeting room.

VIII. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting

October 5th, 2010

Common Council Chambers in City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.

Submitted by:
Stephanie Jachim 9- 29-2010